

Case by Case	Streamlined variance process (adoption of an approved administrative procedure)
Rules less specific, individual variances would go to the Board and EPA	Rules would contain a very specific process. Individual variances would skip the Board adoption process but would still need to be approved by EPA
Characteristics	Characteristics
Rule would need less specificity	Would save some time (estimate about 6 months??) for each variance because the Board process would not be necessary for each individual variance
Could put technical suggestions in guidance rather than in circulars so the process would be much faster, also easier to change after rule adoption if necessary	More certainty for dischargers going into the process
We wouldn't need to pre-plan for every scenario prior to rule adoption, could learn as we go ("cross that bridge when we get there")	Onerous process of rule writing and circular development
Less certainty going into the variance process could be undesirable for some	More challenging EPA approval (for initial process). Approving this administrative procedure would be new for EPA and new can mean a big upfront investment
Would require case by case approval by the Board for each variance	As actual variance situations arise and unanticipated challenges are outside of the adopted process, would have the burden of rule changes to modify the circular and the rules
Complete public participation process requirement	Complete public participation requirement
	Risk that if a variance implemented through an MPDES permit is appealed, the whole variance process could be brought into question